

The samples will be given to Sales for consideration. Members of the committee felt that both of these designs represented an improvement over the present fore-end. The majority favored the plain design, but Research and Development felt that there may be a functional advantage to the groove design and that a shift from a design as heavily grooved as our present fore-end to a smooth fore-end may lead to complaints. These factors will be considered by Sales in arriving at a recommendation.

Magazine Cap

Research and Development reported that additional samples of magazine caps have been prepared but they are not yet satisfied with the design and are not prepared to submit the cap for approval.

CENTER FIRE RIFLES

MODEL 721-722 MATCH RIFLE

The Sales Department is not prepared to consider this item further at this time.

MODEL 725

The Sales Department has approved the major features of the sample guns submitted. At the same time they have made suggestions for several minor changes. Most of these have been resolved between Sales and Research and Development.

The only item discussed at any length in this meeting was the magazine latch. The design originally submitted was recessed into the trigger bow so that most people could not release it with a finger but some instrument such as a point of a bullet would be required. The redesigned latch extends rearward into the trigger bow so that it can be released easily by hand. However, there was concern lest it be released inadvertently during recoil, particularly by a shooter wearing heavy gloves. Research and Development was requested to provide a compromise design either through changes in the latch or spring. While it is important that it be possible to release this latch without undue difficulty, it is even more important that it should not be released accidentally.

One of the patterns of fore-end checkering which DED believes can be produced by machine is considered by Sales to be satisfactory. However, DED does not feel that the amount of wrap-around which Sales considers necessary on the stock can be achieved by machine checkering. The Ilion Plant is therefore refiguring costs based on machine checkering for the fore-end and hand checkering for the stock. The new cost estimates will assume the common sight line project is approved and in effect. It will assume no other changes in the Model 721 and 722 specifications (e.g., new sights and new safety - see Arms Minute No. 7, 1956 - page 6). The problem remains of matching to a satisfactory degree the appearance of checkering produced by two methods. The Ilion Plant and Research and Development were requested to prepare detailed specifications for this gun and obtain Sales Department concurrence.